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- 3. Jury Trials—Extraneous influences—Coercion to verdict—Time to be kept together-Expressions by trial judge. Trial by jury is a sacred right and should be sedulously guarded. The jury should not only be kept from all extraneous influences in reaching their verdict, but the court itself should be careful not to trench upon their province. They should not be coerced, by threat or otherwise, into finding a verdict; for a verdict resulting from coercion could not be allowed to stand. The verdict should be the untrammeled expression of the concurrence of individual judgments. But a reasonable time, to be determined by the circumstances of the case, should be allowed the jury for the performance of their duty, and they should be kept together until the trial court is satisfied that they have made an honest effort to agree, and cannot from a conscientious difference of judgment. Great latitude is allowed the trial court as to the length of time the jury shall be kept together, and unless it is a clear case of abuse of such discretion, the verdict will not be disturbed on the ground of coercion. But it is the safer and better practice for the trial court to refrain from any expression of opinion, which may be claimed to savor of threat or coercion, as to the time the jury will be kept together if a verdict is not sooner rendered.
- 4. Jury Trials—Questions by jury—Answer by court—Presence of counsel. Counsel engaged in a case should, according to the better practice, be apprised of any question propounded by the jury to the court that may affect the case before an answer is returned by the court, but a failure to apprise them will not vitiate the verdict if the answer is correct.

Jones v. Murphy.—Decided at Wytheville, June 11, 1896.—Cardwell, J. Absent, Harrison, J:

- 1. Partnership—What constitutes—Profits—Losses. In order to constitute a partnership it is necessary that there shall be an agreement that something shall be attempted with a view to gain, and that this gain shall be shared between the parties to the agreement. There must be an agreement for a division of profits arising from some predetermined business engaged in for their common benefit. It is not essential, however, that there shall be an agreement to divide the losses of the undertaking.
- 2. CHANCERY JURISDICTION—Adequate remedy at law—Partnerships—Case in judgment. The remedy at law is not adequate for the settlement of partnership accounts, and any partner may file his bill in equity for the settlement of the same. The evidence in the case in judgment shows a partnership between the parties, and that the appellant had no right or power to deprive appellee of his share of the profits of that partnership.

CHESAPEAKE & OHIO RAILWAY Co. v. CLOWES.—Decided at Wytheville, June 11, 1896.—Keith, P. Absent, Harrison, J:

^{1.} RAILROADS—Passengers—Contributory negligence—Passing from one coach to another in search of a seat. A passenger on a railroad train, when he has paid his fare, is entitled to a seat, and not finding one in the coach which he enters he has the right, while the train is in motion, to pass from one coach to another in search of a seat, provided he does so cautiously and carefully.

^{2.} RAILROADS—Negligence—Rate of speed. Mere rate of speed, though unusual,